

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 071623Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9472

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR BU

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS VISIT TO BULGARIA

HAILED A SUCCESS

1. SUMMARY/. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS VISIT TO BULGARIA JUL 2-4 WAS TRUMPETED AS ANOTHER SUCCESS BOTH BY OFFICIAL GREEK SOURCES AND BY THE PRESS. UNDERLYING BOTH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL COMMENT WAS THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE TRAVELS OF CARAMANLIS WERE BOLSTERING THE INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE OF GREECE AND "ISOLATING" TURKEY. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS RETURNED FROM AN OFFICIAL THREE DAY VISIT TO BULGARIA ON JUL 4. THE GREEK PRESS GAVE GREAT PLAY TO ALL ASPECTS OF THIS VISIT AND WITH UNCOMMON UNANIMITY HAILED BOTH THE VISIT ITSELF AND ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VERY POSITIVE TERMS. THE COMMUNIST PRESS WAS PREDICTABLY PLEASED OVER CARAMANLIS FORAY INTO BULGARIA, A HISTORICAL AND LONG TIME FOE. RIZOSPASTIS (COMMUNIST)

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ON JUL 5 RAN THE HEADLINE "RESULTS OF TALKS FRUITFUL:

GREEK-BULGARIAN COOPERATION A FACTOR OF PEACE IN THE BALKANS". THE NON COMMUNIST PRESS TOOK AN EQUALLY POSITIVE TONE WITH KATHIMERINI JUL 5 HEADLINING "INTER/BALKAN COOPERATION ESTABLISHED IN SOFIA: TURKEY FULLY ISOLATED".

3. BOTH KATHIMERINI AND AKROPOLIS (BOTH PRO GOVT) ON JULY 6 PUBLISHED QUITE OPTIMISTIC EDITORIALS. OF PARTICULAR NOTE WAS THE KATHIMERININ LEADER, "GREAT ACHIEVEMENT", THE TENOR OF WHICH WAS SET BY ITS FIRST SENTENCE: "IT IS NOT AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT THE VISIT AND THE TALKS OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS IN BULGARIA SURPASSED IN ACCOMPLISHMENT AND TONE THE MOST OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATIONS". THE PLAY IN THE GREEK PRESS WAS FULLY COMPLEMENTED BY OTHER MEDIA WITH WIDE COVERAGE BOTH IN GREEK RADIO AND TV -- AGAIN MARKED BY A POSITIVE AND OPTIMISTIC TONE.

4. THE FULL TEXT OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS OF COURSE PUBLICIZED HERE. SEGMENTS GIVEN SPECIAL PLAY FOLLOW:
(A) BOTH NATIONS STATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR INTER BALKAN ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELDS OF MEDICINE, ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY, TRANSPORT, ENERGY, TOURISM AND ATHLETICS. THEY INDICATED IN THIS RESPECT THAT A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL BALKAN COUNTRIES, AT THE LEVEL OF EXPERTS OR MINISTERS, WOULD BE USEFUL. (B) BOTH PARTIES EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE CYPRUS SITUATION AND RE-STATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE RELEVANT DECISIONS OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THEY ALSO STATED THE BELIEF THAT THE UN COULD PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN SEEKING A SOLUTION -- INCLUDING, IF NEED BY, CALLING A BROADER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS. (C) BOTH PARTIES AGREED TO CARRY OUT REGULAR CONTACTS ON ALL LEVELS IN THE FUTURE AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT CONTACTS AND EXCHANGES OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL.

5. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO INCREASE TRADE AND TO DEVELOP SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. THE TWO SIDES ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION (CSCE) AND IN ADDITION, ACKNOWLEDGED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIENNA CONFERENCE ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS AND MILITARY FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE (MBFR).

6. REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST, THE TWO PARTIES UNDERScoreD THE NEED FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE TO BE BASED ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IN THIS CONNECTION, THEY STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE "OCCUPYING FORCES" TO DEPART FROM "OCCUPIED

LANDS" AND FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A SOLUTION THAT WOULD RESPECT THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLES OF THE AREA AND THAT WOULD GUARANTEE BOTH THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION AND THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE.

7. A GREEK GOVT SOURCE STATED ON JULY 4 THAT THE PRIME MINISTERS TALKS IN SOFIA "EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS" AND THAT THE JOURNEY TO BULGARIA MARKED THE END OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PRIME MINISTERS TRIPS TO WESTERN EUROPE AND THE BALKANS. THE SAME SOURCE INDICATED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD RESUME HIS TRAVELS ABROAD AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER OR IN OCTOBER. THE SOURCE ALSO NOTED THAT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE CONSTITUTED AN "ADVANCED POSITION" WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF DEVELOPING MULTI-LATERAL CONTACTS AMONG THE BALKAN STATES.

8. ANOTHER PRINCIPAL THEME WHICH GREEK GOVT SOURCES STRUCK WAS THAT GREEK-BULGARIAN TALKS THEMSELVES WERE OF "HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE" SINCE THEY REMOVED THE CLIMATE OF DISTRUST, ADVERSITY AND ANTAGONISM THAT HAD EXISTED FOR SO LONG BETWEEN THE TWO STATES. AS A RESULT, THERE NOW EXIST "GUARANTEES OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH RESULT IN MAKING GREECE'S NORTHERN BORDERS SAFE". FINALLY THE POINT WAS STRESSED THAT NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS OR MINORITY PROBLEMS EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE SOURCE FINALLY UNDERLINED THE FACT THAT "WHAT EMERGES FROM ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS IS THE INCREASING ISOLATION OF TURKEY".

9. COMMENT: THE LATTER COMMENT PROBABLY BEST EXPRESSES BOTH THE CENTRAL OBJECTIVE OF THE CARAMANLIS VISIT TO BULGARIA AND THE REASON FOR THE WIDE SPREAD SATISFACTION THAT IT HAS OCCASIONED IN GREECE. MUCH OF THE COMMUNIQUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOOKS LIKE STANDARD BALKAN BOILERPLATE. WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO OBTAIN A MORE PRECISE READING OF THE RESULTS.
KUBISCH

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